

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CHURCH OF ST. JOACHIM IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, ON THEIR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joachim's Roman Catholic Church in Trenton, New Jersey, as they celebrate their Centennial. At the turn of the 20th Century, millions of immigrants from Italy journeyed to the United States in the hopes of starting a new life. Thousands of these immigrants—who later become proud Italian-Americans—settled in Trenton, New Jersey.

These immigrants found jobs in the city's once thriving steel mills, rubber factories, and pottery factories. But life was about much more than work. These newcomers sought comfort in their Italian culture, kinship with their fellow immigrants, and solace and guidance in their Roman Catholic faith.

In 1901, 100 years ago, because of cultural differences and language barriers, Rev. James A. McFaul, Bishop of Trenton, established St. Joachim's Parish to accommodate the spiritual needs of the city's newest Catholics. Bishop McFaul gave the task of establishing this new parish to Rev. Aloysius Pozzi, an Italian Priest who at the time had been in the United States for less than five years.

This new Parish had a meager physical beginning. There was no church, and Masses were held in Centennial Hall on Hudson and Genesee Streets. But while lacking in physical materials, this new Parish was rich in members and spirit. In fact, the first Mass of St. Joachim's was offered for 1,500 people.

Plans to build their own church were quickly developed and on August 15, 1903, the cornerstone of St. Joachim's Church was laid during festivities attended by church and civic leaders, as well as thousands of Italian-American immigrants. But Rev. Pozzi, who later became a Monsignor, did not rest once the church was built; instead he worked tirelessly to establish a new parochial school, which opened in 1909. For 90 years, St. Joachim's School provided area children with a value-filled Catholic education until declining enrollment forced its closure in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, for 100 years, St. Joachim's has faithfully served its parishioners, ministering and providing services to the community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in congratulating St. Joachim's on their Centennial Celebration and to thank them for all of their contributions to the rich heritage and culture of Trenton, the Capital City of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO ELMER BOYD STAATS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to Elmer Boyd Staats, President, Trustee, and Chairman of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Staats will soon end a distinguished career in public service. His dedication spans more than six decades and includes appointments under every U.S. President from Franklin Roosevelt to George W. Bush.

Mr. Staats began his career in public service in 1936, spending a summer as a research assistant for the Kansas Legislative Council. During 1937 and 1938, he was a member of the staff of the Public Administration Service of Chicago. In 1938, Elmer came to Washington, D.C. to be a fellow at the Brookings Institute. A year later he joined the staff of the Bureau of the Budget, thus beginning a remarkable Federal service career.

As a member of the Bureau's Division of Administrative Management and later of the War Agencies Section, Elmer worked with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman in converting the U.S. economy to war time production and back to peace time again. Later, he became Assistant Bureau Director for Legislative Reference, working with Truman White House staff to help coordinate the President's legislative programs. Mr. Staats then became the Bureau's Executive Assistant Director then Deputy Director, a position he held until 1953.

Later, Elmer was appointed Executive Director of the Operations Coordinating Board of the National Security Council. He then returned to the Bureau of the Budget, serving as Assistant Director then Deputy Director under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Elmer Comptroller General of the United States. He served a full 15-year term and implemented significant changes in the General Accounting Office. Elmer focused on expanding GAO's work and issue areas to serve Congress more effectively. When Elmer Staats took charge of GAO, less than ten percent of the its professional staff's effort toward providing direct assistance to Congress. When he left, GAO was devoting nearly 40 percent of its effort to helping Congress.

During his tenure at GAO, Elmer helped user in many improvements. He helped to implement "Government Auditing Standards," providing standardized methods for governments at all levels to determine the effectiveness of programs. Upon his retirement in 1981 Elmer Staats was called, "a pragmatic of good government."

Elmer's public service did not end with his retirement from Comptroller General, as he soon became President and then Trustee and Chairman of the Harry S Truman Scholarship

Foundation. This Federal agency administers the scholarship program established as the sole Federal memorial to President Truman. Each year the Truman Foundation awards 80 scholarships to outstanding students who wish to undertake a career in public service. This December Elmer Staats will complete his third consecutive six year term as a Foundation Trustee and as its Chairman. Having had the privilege to serve with him as Vice Chairman of the Trustees, I can personally attest to the ways in which this important program has flourished under his leadership.

Elmer has served on numerous commissions, committees, boards, and councils, making each better because of his involvement. He has also been the recipient of many awards, including the Rockefeller Public Service Award and the Presidential Citizens Medal. Elmer received degrees from McPherson College, the University of Kansas and the University of Minnesota and honorary doctorate degrees from eight different schools.

Mr. Speaker, Elmer Staats has been a truly great American, serving the United States for 65 years. I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking him and wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

HONORING AGUSTUS M. DELSIGNORE, HUDSON FALLS ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL RECOGNITION AWARD

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Augustus M. DelSignore as the recipient of the Hudson Falls Italian-American Civic Club's First Annual Recognition Award. Through his leadership in the Glens Falls Housing Authority, Mr. DelSignore has proven to be a pillar of strength in not only his community, but a vast area of the North Country as well.

Mr. DelSignore was born and raised in Glens Falls. After graduating from Glens Falls High School, he joined the Air Force during the Korean War. In 1954, he returned to Glens Falls to take over the family business, DelSignore's Hotel and Restaurant. Mr. DelSignore was married to Joan Denton, also of Glens Falls, in 1951. They are the proud parents of three daughters, Susan, Amy, and Wendy, and proud grandparents of three grandsons and two granddaughters, all of who reside in Glens Falls.

Augustus DelSignore has been involved in the development of Public Housing since 1966. In 1970, he was appointed Provisional Projects Manager for the Glens Falls Housing Authority. While in this position, he initiated operations for the fifty-unit Larose Gardens Apartments in Glens Falls. Upon receiving the highest score on the New York State Civil Service exam for Projects Manager in 1972,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. DelSignore was appointed as the first Projects Manager of the Glens Falls Housing Authority. He oversaw the first high rise building providing eighty affordable apartments for senior citizens.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials certified Mr. DelSignore as a Public Housing Manager in 1974. Again, he turned around to dedicate his efforts to the needs of the elderly by constructing a second senior citizen complex. The Robert J. Cronin High Rise, which is often referred to as the most beautiful property in Glens Falls, provided 100 additional apartments for senior citizens.

On April 25, 1988, Governor Mario Cuomo awarded Mr. DelSignore one of four Distinguished Housing Service Awards. Following on his success, he started an income rental subsidy program for low-income families, resulting in over 600 assisted rental units throughout the Glens Falls area. Under the leadership of Mr. DelSignore, the Glens Falls Housing Authority has been highly praised as a "HUD High Performer," a level only obtained by a small percentage of all housing authorities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, please help me congratulate the recipient of the Hudson Falls Italian-American Civic Club's First Annual Recognition Award, Agustus M. DelSignore. He has accomplished exceptional feats in the areas of housing and development in his community. In Agustus DelSignore, we have found a dedicated and compassionate member of the North Country community.

CONGRATULATING HOLY CROSS SCHOOL ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the students, faculty, and alumni of Holy Cross School in Trenton, New Jersey on the school's 100th anniversary.

In 1901, the Reverend Francis Czernecki and the Felician Sisters founded the school to educate students in a family-oriented atmosphere while instilling the rich tradition of Catholicism into the cultural and intellectual life of every pupil. Today, 100 years later, Holy Cross School is leading 280 students into this millennium with a Catholic value-centered education, and supported by a strong community of faith.

The current generation of lay teachers follow in the footsteps of Felician Sisters who came to Trenton in 1901. The religious teaching community, known as the Sisters of Saint Felix of Cantalice, was founded in Warsaw, Poland in 1855. Many Sisters from the community taught at Holy Cross up until 12 years ago, when the remaining Felician Sisters retired. Nevertheless, the values, dedication, and vision that these Felician Sisters started so many years ago continues to flourish at Holy Cross School today.

Mr. Speaker, in the South Ward of Trenton, New Jersey, many people count three priorities in their community: family, friends, and the Holy Cross School. I would like to thank

the school and the surrounding community for their hard work and dedication to providing an outstanding educational institution filled with tradition and faith that serves the people of Trenton, New Jersey.

HONORING NEW YORK CITY FIREFIGHTER DANA HANNON OF WYCKOFF, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of New York City Firefighter Dana Hannon, who died valiantly trying to save lives during the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. In times of such tragedy, we often look to others for support, for inspiration, and even for the right words. Today, as we search for an understanding of September 11, I borrow the words of Sir Winston Churchill and think of New York Firefighter Dana Hannon with these words. Churchill once said,

Vast and fearsome as the human scene has become, personal contact of the right people, in the right places, at the right time, may yet have a potent and valuable part to play in the cause of peace which is in our hearts.

As forces of terror tried to extinguish the light of our nation on September 11, the heroes in our midst shined brighter than ever. For some, we know what heroic endeavors were undertaken as we hear stories from cell phones, emails, and survivors. And then there are those whose story was not told, yet we know—because of the people they were—it was a selfless courageous story. We know this because these men and women were heroes before they even entered the World Trade Center Towers to begin their rescue missions.

Dana Hannon was a hero to his parents, Tom and Gaye, in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Dana was a hero to his fiancée and his younger sister. Dana was a hero to the residents of Wyckoff, where he served for ten years as a firefighter. Dana was a hero to residents of Bridgeport, Connecticut, where, as a firefighter, he received a medal of valor for his service. Dana was a hero to the residents of New York City, where he reported to the call at the World Trade Center with his company, Engine Company 28.

These heroes entered the buildings' lobbies as people flooded out into the streets. These men and women ran up the stairs while instructing people to immediately get down those same stairs and outside. They ran to help the people in wheelchairs as others ran to safety. Heroes on that day, their efforts and effects will never be forgotten, especially by those who were saved.

We may not know what scenes Dana faced so bravely in the smoke and panic that filled the World Trade Center towers. But, as his family and friends would testify, Dana was most likely one of the first to the building. Always one to act first and worry about his safety later, his loved ones can imagine the heroic acts Dana performed in the buildings that day. I am sure that for someone, he was the right person, in the right place, at the right time. Someday we may hear the story of the lives

he saved or the comfort he provided. But for now, we can be proud, proud of the job he was doing, proud of the heroism he showed that day, and proud of the courage he had always shown.

Some heroes were made on September 11. Others were heroes that just had the chance to shine even more brightly. And as family and friends of Dana wait for stories of him on that day, they will continue to share the stories of his everyday heroism and spirit. The forces of terror may have tried to destroy our peace, but they cannot destroy the peace in our own hearts as long as we have heroes such as Dana Hannon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring New York City Firefighter Dana Hannon, Engine Company 28. The towns of Wyckoff and Bridgeport have recognized Dana's heroism before. On behalf of our country, let us now recognize this man who served us in one of our most horrific hours. In the darkest times, it is the brave who shine the brightest. As we face the future, let us not let him, or his family, or his company, down.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN KILIAN

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 28, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Helen Kilian, a freshman at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Helen on receiving first place in the VSA arts' 18th annual Playwright Discovery Award. This competition elicits nearly 150 entries from across the country, but only four receive top honors. Helen's script was one of those honored.

Helen's play addresses the pervasive issue of disability discrimination by telling the story of Frances, a young girl who takes on the challenges of high school and her own disability. Frances, who is afflicted with cerebral palsy, is offered an award for inspiring her classmates. This intriguing story, aptly entitled "The Trouble with Being Inspiring", delves into the assumptions that we hold about people with and without disabilities and ourselves.

A production of Helen's play will be performed at the prestigious Washington, DC, Kennedy Center. This is a tremendous accomplishment for any playwright, but this success is an even greater milestone for Helen. Not only is Helen, who is 18, at the beginning of her writing career, but Helen also faces her own challenges. Helen has cerebral palsy. Helen has met the challenges that accompany cerebral palsy and turned her experiences into a tool to help all of us reexamine how we view disabilities. It is clear that Helen has no trouble being inspiring.

Helen's single act dramatic work, "The Trouble with Being Inspiring", will be performed at the Kennedy Center this Monday, October 1. I encourage everyone to attend the play and support Helen's work. I know that my colleagues join me in wishing Helen continued success as she pursues her work as a playwright and continues her studies in creative writing and graphic design.